

# TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

## Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances



**Tusla I.D:** TU2015LS018

**Name of Service** The Ferns Preschool

**Address of Service:** The Ferns, Main St., Portarlinton, Co Laois, R32 VW9H

**Email Address:** sheilaldunne@hotmail.com

**Name of Registered Provider:** Sheila Dunne Jnr.

<b>Type of Proposed Service:</b>	<b>Full Day Care</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Part-Time</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Sessional</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	<b>Drop-In</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Childminding</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Temporary</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Proposed change:** To increase the number of children catered for in the service by 11.

**Proposed Number of Children:** 42

**Recommended Change Following Inspection:** It is recommended that the number of children availing of sessional care be increased by 11. These children are to be accommodated in the “new playroom” located on the lower ground floor of the premises.

**Registered change:** Change in number of children to be accommodated from 31 to 42

**Date of Inspection:** 1 8 0 8 2 0 2 3

**Inspection undertaken by:** Deirdre Molloy

**Title:** Early Years Inspector.

**Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Address:** Primary Care Centre, Church Avenue, Tullamore, Co. Offaly

**Rationale for Inspection:**  
Proposed Change of Circumstance

**Note: For Office use only, to be completed by Registration Office**

**Registration Status:** Registered Sessional Service for 42 Children

**Date of Registration** 29<sup>th</sup> August 2023

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### Authority to Inspect

The Tusla Early Years Inspectorate carries out inspections of Early Years Services under Section 58(D) of the Child Care Act 1991 (as inserted by Section 92 of the Child and Family Agency Act 2013).

<b>Description of Service</b>	The Ferns Preschool is a privately owned and operated service which has been in operation since 1980. The service can accommodate preschool children in the age range of 2 to 6 years. The sessional service is operated from 9am to 12 noon, Monday to Friday. The service has an enrolment of 30 children.
<b>Premises</b>	<p>This early years' service operates from the ground floor (street level) and the lower ground floor of a listed four-story building in the town of Portarlinton. Access to the upper part of the building the domestic dwelling is restricted. The service consists of three main playrooms, two at street level and one on the lower ground level. Entry and exit to and from the premises is possible through two doors, one located to the front of the setting, and one located to the left side of the premises. Access to the service is controlled from within.</p> <p>The Ferns Preschool offers both indoor and outdoor facilities. A large secure outdoor play area is provided to the rear of the building .</p>
<b>Staffing</b>	The registered provider is part of the staff compliment and facilitated the inspection. Adults employed and working directly with the pre-school children have qualifications ranging from level 5 to level 6 on the National Framework of Qualifications in Early Years Education and Care.
<b>Methodology</b>	The inspection was an announced inspection to assess compliance with the Childcare Act 1991 (Early Years Services) Regulations 2016 and Childcare Act 1991 (Early Years Services) (Amendment) Regulations 2016. The Inspection focused on regulations under the following themes; Governance, Health, Welfare and Development of the child, Safety and Premises.

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	The findings on inspection based on information obtained through examination of documentation, direct observation, and discussion with relevant staff are documented in the inspection report and taken into consideration when making a decision in relation to registering the change in circumstance. The Inspectorate reserves the right to edit responses received for reasons including clarity; completeness; and compliance with administrative and legal processes. The contents of the report are compiled by the inspectorate body.
<b>Acknowledgements</b>	The Inspector wishes to acknowledge the cooperation of the registered provider. No children were present on the day of the inspection.

Part III - Management and Staff	
Regulation 9 – Management and Recruitment	
<p>(1) A registered provider shall ensure that—</p> <p>(a) the service has a designated person in charge and a named person who is able to deputise as required.</p>	
<b>Requirement met:</b>	<p>This requirement has been met.</p> <p>(1)(a)</p> <p>The service had a designated person in charge and a named person to deputise as required.</p>

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### Part III - Management and Staff

#### Regulation 11 - Staffing Levels

*(1) Subject to this Regulation, a registered provider shall ensure that there is at all times an adequate number of adults working directly with the children attending the pre-school service.*

#### Requirement met:

(1)

This requirement has been met.

An adequate number of adults were proposed to work directly with the children in the service.

It is proposed that the additional children will be accommodated on the lower ground floor where the required ratio of 1:11 children availing of sessional care will be upheld.

### Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

#### Regulation 20 - Facilities for Rest and Play

*(1) Subject to this Regulation, a registered provider shall ensure that—*

*(a) having regard to the number of pre-school children attending the service, their respective ages, and the amount of time they spend on the premises, there are adequate and suitable facilities for each child to play indoors and, where required by these Regulations, outdoors, during the day, and*

*(b) there are adequate and suitable facilities for a pre-school child to rest during the day, and in the case of an overnight pre-school service, during the day and the night.*

*(3) A registered provider of a full day care service, a part-time day care service or a childminding service, other than such a service to which paragraph (2) applies, shall ensure that—*

*(a) a suitable, safe, and secure outdoor space to which the pre-school children attending the service have access on a daily basis is provided on the premises*

#### Requirement met:

This requirement has been met.

(1)

(a) The service was equipped with adequate and suitable facilities for each child to play indoors and outdoors while in the service.

A wide range of good quality toys and equipment was provided both indoors and outdoors.

No children were present on the day of inspection, but the playrooms were set out in a child centred manner including particular areas of interest and rest area. A wide range of developmentally and age-appropriate toys and equipment is freely accessible to the children from low level shelving.

In the proposed new area special interest areas were observed and there was a choice of different toys and equipment including arts and crafts materials, table top equipment, dolls, buggies, farm toys laid out in a child friendly manner .

Child sized furniture including low level tables and chairs are provided for children's use.

(b) There are adequate and suitable facilities for a pre-school child to rest during the day. In addition to rest areas in existing rooms, in the new area a cosy rest area a comfortable couch and soft floor matting was provided in the rest area.

(3)

(a) A suitable, safe, and secure outdoor space to which the pre-school children attending the service have access on a daily basis is provided to the back of the premises. Access could be gained to the play area directly from the setting and the play area.

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## Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

### Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

#### Regulation 22 – Food and Drink

*A registered provider shall ensure that adequate and suitable, nutritious, and varied food and drink is available for each pre-school child attending the pre-school service.*

#### Requirement met:

This requirement has been met.

It is proposed that children bring in their own lunches from home in line with healthy eating policy of the proposed service. An upstanding fridge is available in which to store lunches prior to consumption is provided.

### Part VI – Safety

#### Regulation 23 - Safeguarding health, safety, and welfare of child

*A registered provider shall ensure that all reasonable measures are taken to safeguard the health, safety and welfare of a pre-school child attending the service and that the environment of the service is safe.*

#### Requirement met:

This requirement has been met.

The following measures were in place to safeguard the children’s health, safety, and welfare and to ensure that the environment of the service was safe.

A site-specific infection control policy has been devised and was available to parents and staff.

Cleaning schedules and a cleaning rota are to be maintained and are open for inspection.

A site-specific risk management policy has been devised which review indoor and outdoor areas of the service.

Safe storage is provided in a locked cupboard for cleaning products and supplies out of reach of children.

The bins in the playroom and sanitary accommodation are foot operated .

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Waste from the preschool is recycled by the registered provider and a bin collection is provided.

A pest control system is in place in the service.

### Part VI - Safety

#### Regulation 25 – First Aid

- (1) A registered provider shall ensure that a person trained in first aid for children is, at all times, immediately available to the children attending the pre-school service.
- (2) A registered provider shall ensure that a suitably equipped first aid box for children—
- (a) is safely stored in an easily accessible and conspicuous position on the premises, and
  - (b) is available to the children attending the pre-school service at all times.

#### Requirement met:

This requirement has been met.

(1)

Staff hold up to date qualified in First Aid Response (FAR) and will be available on the premises throughout the proposed opening hours.

(2)

(a)(b) A fully equipped first aid box is available in an accessible and conspicuous location in the service.

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### Part VI – Safety

#### Regulation 26 – Fire Safety Measures

- (1) A registered provider shall ensure that a record in writing is kept of—
- (a) any fire drill that takes place in the premises, and
  - (b) the number, type and maintenance record of firefighting equipment and smoke alarms in the premises.
- (4) A notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of fire shall be displayed in a conspicuous position in the premises.

#### Requirement met:

This requirement has been met.

(1)

(a) A recording system maintains records of the fire drills conducted in the service every month and it is proposed that a monthly fire drill be carried out going forward.

(b) The registered provider maintains a record of firefighting equipment and smoke alarms in the premises.

(4) A notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of fire was displayed in a conspicuous position in the premises.

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### Part VI – Safety

#### Regulation 28 – Insurance

*A registered provider shall ensure that the pre-school service is adequately insured.*

#### Requirement met:

This requirement has been met.

An insurance quotation was available and had been submitted to the Registration Team prior to this inspection. The Registered Provider must ensure that adequate insurance is in place prior to the commencement of the change. The change approval is contingent on the registered providers compliance with Regulation 28.

The service had a proposed insurance certificate to confirm cover for a total of up to 42 preschool children. Insurance cover will be valid until 2024.

### Part VII – Premises and Space Requirements

#### Regulation 29 – Premises

*A registered provider shall ensure that the premises of the service are—*

- (a) of sound and stable structure,*
- (b) safe and secure,*
- (c) kept adequately lit, heated, and ventilated,*
- (d) cleaned, maintained, and repaired, as required, and*
- (e) equipped with adequate and suitable sanitary facilities.*

#### Requirement met:

(a) In the proposed new playroom, the internal walls were painted with no evidence of dampness or mould growth visible. All internal windows were water tight and weather tight when closed.

(b) All site boundaries were secure.

(c) The setting was well lit with a combination of natural through wall and roof windows and artificial light.

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The light fittings throughout the premises were covered with shatterproof diffusers. The service was heated by a combination of electric and oil radiators that are be thermostatically controlled.

Air circulation and ventilation is achieved through openable windows.

(d) The playroom was recently painted and decorated, and surfaces were clean. A proposed cleaning schedule and a cleaning roster is available which would document the proposed cleaning.

The setting was well maintained, and it is proposed to carry out maintenance as required.

The floor covering in the new play area is similar to artificial grass and is clean and well maintained and will be cleaned and vacuumed as required.

(e) There were four toilets and wash hand basins for the children use in additional to an adult toilet for staff members. A supply of liquid soap, disposable paper towels and foot pedal operated bin were available in the sanitary accommodations.

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### Part VII – Premises and Space Requirements

#### Regulation 30 – Minimum Space Requirements

(1) Subject to paragraphs (2) to (6), a registered provider shall ensure that adequate clear floor space is available in the premises for the work, play and movement of children attending the pre-school service.

(3) A registered provider of a sessional pre-school service or a pre-school service in a drop-in centre shall ensure that a minimum of 1.818 square metres of clear floor space is available for each child attending the service.

#### Requirement met:

This requirement has been met.

(1)(3)

The area in which it is proposed to operate the new sessional room has enough free floor space to accommodate this proposal.

Sufficient floor space is available in this area to accommodate the additional children.

Room name	Number of children.	Age range	Type of service	Space available	Space required
New room	11	2 years to 6 years.	Sessional	The amount of total free space available 29 m <sup>2</sup>	This new proposed room could accommodate up to 15 children in sessional care The space requirement for the proposed additional 11 children is 19.998m <sup>2</sup>